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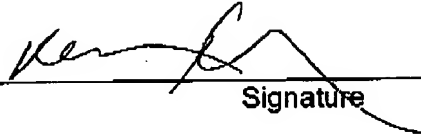
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Response to Restriction Requirement in Serial No. 10/511,169

(Docket No. 7398/84162)

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PATENT
7398/84162

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	HAMADA et al.	Confirmation:	6443
Serial No.:	10/511,169	Art Unit:	1795
Filed:	October 14, 2004	Examiner:	J. Crepeau
For:	Carbon fiber paper and porous carbon electrode substrate for fuel cell therefrom		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314

February 27, 2008

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2008, Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a carbon fiber paper, for initial prosecution on the merits.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds no serious burden is imposed on the Examiner to examine all claims in a single application. According to MPEP 803, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." MPEP 803(B) further states, "(B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required."

It is respectfully submitted there would be no serious burden on the Examiner to search and examine all pending claims in a single (the present) application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

SERIAL NO. 10/511,169
DOCKET NO. 7398/84162
PAGE 2

To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise authorized, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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